

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Written Description

Please amend paragraph [0005] on page 2 as follows:

Numerous methods have been developed to compensate for loss of filtering efficiency. One method includes increasing the amount of the nonwoven polymeric web in the electret filter by adding layers of webs or increasing the thickness of the electret filter. The additional web, however, increases the breathing resistance of the electret filter, adds weight and bulk to the electret filter, and increases the cost of the electret filter. Another method for improving an electret filter's resistance to oily aerosols includes forming the electret filter from resins that include melt processable fluorochemical additives such as fluorochemical oxazolidinones, fluorochemical piperazines, and perfluorinated alkanes. (See, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,025,052 (Crater et al.)). The fluorochemicals should be melt processable, i.e., suffer substantially no degradation under the melt processing conditions used to form the microfibers that are used in the fibrous webs of some electrets. (See, e.g., WO 97/07272 (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing)). U.S. Pat. No. 6,419,871 (Ogale) discloses an electrostatic filter medium comprising a web of electret fibers which have been treated with fluorine-containing plasmas to produce fibers that are electrostatically charged. The fibers in U.S. Pat. No. 6,419,871 are subsequently rinsed and dried. However, U.S. Pat. No. 6,419,871 suffers from the drawbacks of having to use a chamber at ~~reduced pressure wherein the pressure used is on the order of 1 X 10⁻² to 1.0 Torr. a pressure less than atmospheric pressure.~~ Because the plasma treatment is performed at reduced pressure (also called vacuum plasma treatment), one is limited by the size

of the chamber that can be used. U.S. Pat. No. 6,419,871 is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Please delete paragraph [0007] on page 3 in its entirety.

Please delete paragraph [0043] on page 9 in its entirety.